

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards  
Export Certificate Report

**Country:** Bulgaria

**Post:** Sofia

**Report Category:** FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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**Report Highlights:**

Bulgaria, as a member of the European Union (EU), applies EU regulatory requirements for imports of animal and/or plant-origin food and agricultural products. Bulgarian regulatory authorities may need to be consulted, on a case-by-case basis, regarding import requirements for some minor categories of non-harmonized products. The following report should also be read in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) Certificate Report prepared by the U.S. Mission to the EU's (USEU) Office of Agricultural Affairs in Brussels.

**DISCLAIMER:** This report was prepared by U.S. Embassy Sofia's Office of Agricultural Affairs for U.S. exporters of domestically produced food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since publication, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. Post recommends that U.S. exporters verify all import requirements with their Bulgarian customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.

### **Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required by Government (Matrix):**

EU legislation requires many health and supervisory requirements that are meant to guarantee that imports meet the standards of production in Member States. Bulgaria applies EU certification requirements for imported products. Certificate details are established in specific legislation, including veterinary health certificate templates (see links at the end of this report).

Starting from December 14, 2019 the EU will implement new plant health and animal health legislation and import controls. As a result, certain certificates for animal origin products and seeds for sprouting have been changed, and certain plant products which previously did not require a phytosanitary certificate will also require a certificate after December 14, 2019 (FAS USEU [FAIRS Certificate Report](#)).

New Official Controls [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) created a new framework for official controls. The EC published FAQs related to the new import rules available [here](#).

The [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/628 of 8 April 2019](#) concerning official certificates for certain animals and products amended Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 regarding model certificates and is the primary document for newly required import certificates. In addition, the EC has published its [new plant health rules](#).

The EC adopted [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2017 of 28 November 2019](#) which lists products that are required to be accompanied by phytosanitary certificate (Annex XI part A and B) and products that are exempted from such requirement (Annex XI part C).

Phytosanitary certificate will have to accompany:

- Nuts with green husk/skin ("not peeled") which are considered as 'fruit in the botanical sense';
- Nuts for sowing, whether in-shell or shelled;
- Peanuts, fresh, not roasted or otherwise cooked, whole, not shelled, not broken, including seed for sowing (CN code: 1202 30 00 and ex 1202 41 00).

Phytosanitary certificate will not be required to accompany the following imported nuts and peanuts:

- Nuts in shell, with their green husk/skin removed
- Nuts without shell (shelled nuts) for direct consumer consumption, including processed nuts

- Processed peanuts in shell
- Shelled peanuts.

Post recommends that U.S. exporters consult with the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Sofia for further confirmation on import requirements due to possible discrepancies in interpretation and implementation of import rules at a national level.

#### A. Export Certificates/Requirements for Animal Products

The EU has established harmonized import requirements for animals and animal products applicable for any Member State. Import requirements for animal products exported to the EU (and Bulgaria) can be found at [FSIS website](#) along with export certificates for each type of product. For several products, the EU requires export establishments be pre-approved based on submissions made by the U.S. Government (please, see [FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2018 Bulgaria, BU1912](#)). See [here](#) the EU-approved list of animal and animal product establishments.

The EU requires veterinary and/or general health certificates with each meat shipment, signed and dated prior to export. The competent U.S. certifying agent will delete any statement appearing on the EU model certificate that is not applicable.

#### B. Export Certificates/Requirements for Live Animals

The EU imposes general requirements for all veterinary health certificates. [Directive 2002/99/EC](#), Annex IV.6, stipulates that certificates must be issued before consignments leave the control of the competent authority. Non-compliance will lead to rejection of shipment at the EU border entry point (please, see [FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2018 Bulgaria, BU1912](#)).

Bilingual Bulgarian/English health certificates are available for some commodities/species on APHIS' website (bovine semen [model 1](#) and [model 3](#) and equine semen [model 1](#) and [model 4](#)). If a bilingual certificate for a specific species or commodity is not listed, please refer to the English version on the link to the [EU](#). It is the responsibility of the exporter to obtain a bilingual certificate if it is not listed below. Supplementary information regarding the export certificates for the EU market is available on the website of the [USEU Brussels](#).

#### B. Export Certificates/Requirements for Plant and Plant Products

Import requirements for plants and plant products are harmonized at the EU level. The [International Plant Protection Convention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (IPPC) provides model certificates which are recognized by the EU. Unlike veterinary products, there is only one model certificate for all plant products in accordance with IPPC's conventions. APHIS issues U.S. phytosanitary certificates along with any EU-specific attestations.

#### C. Export certificates/requirements for non-harmonized products

Only a few products/by-products or exotic animals are not harmonized under EU legislation. In such cases, the importer is subject to Bulgarian national legislation and import requests are assessed by the competent authorities on a case-by-case basis. The National [Bulgarian Food Safety Agency](#) (BFSA) is

the competent authority for providing the specific import conditions on non-harmonized products. U.S. exporters can request additional guidance on current requirements from FAS Sofia.

## **Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)**

Because Bulgaria conforms to EU regulations and directives, Post recommends that this report be read in conjunction with the FAS USEU's [FAIRS Certificate Report](#). This report, as well as other plus country specific reports, can be opened through the [FAS website](#) and are updated annually in December. Also see [FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2018 Bulgaria, BU1912](#)

Prior to shipment, exporters should always ensure that their Bulgarian importers confirm that the consignment will be allowed to enter with the documentation accompanying the consignment. If there is any doubt which requirements noted under the EU a consignment will fall, or when requirements are not listed, the U.S. exporter should have the Bulgarian importer contact the pertinent [border inspection posts](#) (BIP) with a description of the proposed import including the animal-origin contents, and the intended use of the material in Bulgaria. The importers should be prepared to provide a description of the proposed imports and the intended use of the material in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian officials will respond in writing.

## **Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)**

For the identity check of the shipment, the BFSA Border Inspection requires the seal number of the container be printed on the veterinary certificate. If no seal number is present on the certificate, the border inspection will make efforts to do identity checks based on other supporting documents, however, a physical check may be necessary to verify the identity of the shipment. For some veterinary certificates, additional statements (declaration of BSE/TSE) are now included. Please, see [FAIRS Export Certificate Report 2018 Bulgaria, BU1912](#)

## **Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements**

There are two major regulations on border import control, [Regulation #46](#) on veterinary requirements for imports of raw materials and products of animal origin, and [Regulation #47](#) on Border Inspection Points and the requirements and procedures for veterinary border inspections. Veterinary border checks of consignments imported into Bulgaria are conducted by official veterinary inspectors, in accordance with Article 188/2 of [Regulation #47](#). The BFSA Border Control is preparing for the implementation of the new EU Official Controls [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625](#) which is scheduled to be fully enforced from December 14, 2019.

As of December 2019, Bulgaria is revising its major Veterinary Medical Act. Although the amended legislation mainly focuses on biosecurity issues, most EU-level animal health and import provisions will also to be incorporated. The updated legislation is likely to be approved in early 2020.

## **Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements**

In accordance with Chapter VI, Article 15, [Regulation #47](#) all consignments of products of animal origin intended for imports or for transit through the territory of Bulgaria are subject of border veterinary control. BFSA is the proper, competent authority in a matter of settlements of veterinary requirements with a third country.

## Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

The following links on USDA/FSIS website contain most important samples of import certificates (in English or in English/Bulgarian) required for various products and the list of third countries from which import of certain product is permitted:

- [Live animals and red meat](#);
- [Meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines](#) and for [transit](#)
- [Poultry meat](#) and [eggs and egg products](#)
- [Composite products for transit and storage](#)

For additional information concerning market entry, other import requirements, and a current importer list, U.S. exporters of agricultural products and commodities contact:

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Tel: (+3592) 939 5720

E-mail: [agsofia@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agsofia@fas.usda.gov)

## Appendix II. Bulgarian Competent Authorities

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Bulgarian Food Safety Agency

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Bulgaria Customs Agency, Ministry of Finance

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### Attachments:

No Attachments